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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,250	12/23/2002	David M. Fink	HMR2023 US PCT	9383
5487	7590	11/01/2004	EXAMINER	
ROSS J. OEHLER AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC. ROUTE 202-206 MAIL CODE: D303A BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807			SHAMEEM, GOLAM M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	
DATE MAILED: 11/01/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/088,250

Applicant(s)

FINK ET AL.

Examiner

Golam M M Shameem

Art Unit

1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-139 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5,7-10,12-15,22-123 and 126-139 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6,11,16-21,124 and 125 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

This application is a 371 of PCT/US00/24962 09/13/2000, which claims benefit for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) [to a provisional application 60/229,355 09/14/1999], is acknowledged.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-139 are pending in the application.

Receipt is acknowledged of amendment / response filed on September 30, 2004 and that has been entered.

Claims 4, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 22-123 and 126-139 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.142 (b) as being drawn to a non-elected subject matter.

Response to Election/Restriction

In response to the restriction requirements, Applicants have elected Group VIII (a New group to accommodate Applicant's preferred *another embodiment*), which includes claims 1-3, 6, 11, 16-21, 124 and 125 drawn to a compound and composition of formula I, and the elected species as set forth (Response, page 2-3) with traverse is acknowledged. Applicants arguments (to withdraw restriction between Groups 1-VII) are fully considered but found unpersuasive due to following reasons:

The instantly claimed compounds contain a core of bicyclo-thiophene compound as the technical feature in common in all invention groups. However, this technical feature was known in the art prior to the filing of the instant application. See Ong *et al* (1987), therefore, this feature does not provide a contribution over the art and thus unity of invention among the groups are

Art Unit: 1626

lacking. The invention Groups I-VIII outlined each relate to a set of structurally diverse and dissimilar compounds, process of making and their method of uses which do not possess a substantial common core wherein a reference anticipating one would not necessarily render the other obvious. The core does not define a contribution over the art. The core is further substituted by different variables such as X, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and Q etc, which are broadly defined and when the compound of formula I is taken as a whole, a plethora of vastly different compounds are possible. Thus these features are not considered 'special technical features' under PCT rules 13.1 and 13.2. Hence, the unity of invention is considered to be lacking and restriction of the invention in accordance with the rules of unity of invention is considered to be proper.

In addition, 35 U.S.C. 372 (b)(2) clearly states that unity of invention may be reexamined under 35 U.S.C. 121. Restriction was based on PCT Rule 13.1, 13.2 and Annex B part 1(b) together with 37 CFR 1.475 and 1.499 for lacking unity of invention because of lacking a significant structural element qualifying as the special technical features.

PCT Rule 13.2 states that the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (requirement of unity of invention).

PCT Rule 13.2 states that unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

Annex B (2)(V) when dealing with alternatives, if it can be shown that at least one Markush alternative is not novel over the prior art, the question of unity of invention shall be reconsidered by the Examiner. Reconsideration does not necessarily imply that an objection of

Art Unit: 1626

lack of unity shall be raised. If the Examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) of the other invention. However, Examiner may reconsider to rejoin method of use claims commensurate in scope with the product claims when the case would be found in condition for allowance [provided those method claims are free from 35 U.S.C. §112 first (including written description, reach-through claim language and/or scope-enablement issues) and second paragraphs]. For these reasons, Applicant's arguments are found unpersuasive and, since 35 U.S.C. 101 allows one patent per invention, the requirement for restriction (election of species) is still deemed proper.

Applicants preserve their right to file a divisional on the non-elected subject matter.

As set forth in the restriction requirement and an election of a single compound (or set of compounds), the invention will encompass all compounds that fall within the scope of the claim is as follows:

A compound having the formula I wherein:

X is as claimed,

R₁ is C₁₋₆ alkoxy,

R₂ is C₁₋₆ alkyl,

R₃ is as claimed but Q is limited to only thienyl or furanyl, and

R₄ is C₁₋₆ alkyl.

As a result of the election and the corresponding scope of the compound identified, claims 4, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 22-123 and 126-139 and the remaining subject matter of claims 1-3, 6, 11, 16-21, 124 and 125 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142 (b)

Art Unit: 1626

as being drawn to non-elected inventions. The withdrawn subject matter of claims 4, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 22-123 and 126-139 is properly restricted as it differs materially in structure and in element from the elected subject matter supra so as to be patentably distinct there from.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6, 11, 16-21, 124 and 125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ong *et al* (1987). Applicant claims thienoisoxazolyl and thienylpyrrazolyl-phenoxy substituted propyl derivatives, which are useful D₄ antagonists. Ong *et al* also disclose the synthesis of several thienoisoxazolyl and thienylpyrrazolyl-phenoxy substituted propyl derivatives and at least one of them anticipates the instantly claimed invention wherein X is O, R₁ is OH, R₂ is H, R₃ is (CH₂)_n Q (wherein Q is phenyl, which is optionally substituted with C₁₋₆ alkoxy and n is 1), and R₄ is H [STN International, CAPLUS database, RN number, 110894-44-5, also see RN 110894-47-8, a copy is provided with this Office action], which reads on the instantly claimed compounds.

Objections

Claims 1-3, 6, 11, 16-21, 124 and 125 are objected to for containing non-elected subject matter. The claims should be amended to exclude non-elected subject matter and within the scope of elected compound.

Telephone Inquiry

Art Unit: 1626

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Golam Shameem, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0706. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached at (571) 272-0699. The Unofficial fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7921. The Official fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 308-4556 or 305-3592.

When filing a FAX in Technology Center 1600, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communications with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [joseph.mckane@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees will not communicate with applicant via Internet e-mail where sensitive data will be exchanged or where there exists a possibility that sensitive data could be identified unless there is of record an express waiver of the confidentiality requirements under 35 U.S.C. 122 by the applicant. See the Interim Internet Usage Policy published by the Patent and Trademark Office Official Gazette on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Art Unit: 1626

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Golam M M Shameem". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "G" and "M".

Golam M M Shameem, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1600
Technology Center 1

October 21, 2004